

Tennessee’s birth data supplies information that is useful to health professionals in the implementation of research and programs to improve the health of both mothers and babies. The prenatal period can be the beginning of a lifetime of good health, or it can be the start of years of illness, impairment, and shortened life expectancy. Low birthweight can be linked to various risk factors that include developmental delay, respiratory distress syndrome, and congenital anomalies.

Early and comprehensive prenatal care can reduce rates of infant deaths and low birthweight. Educating women on the effects of maternal risk factors such as poor nutrition, cigarette smoking, and alcohol and drug usage is an important tool in the strategy for healthier babies.

Maternal age is a risk factor for both under 18 years of age and 40 years and older. Adolescents are at particular risk of having low birthweight babies. Babies born to adolescent mothers are also at higher risk to live in poverty, because these mothers are more likely to drop out of school and less likely to attend college. Women over age 40 also are at risk for low birthweight and higher rates of births with congenital anomalies.

By studying birth trends and maternal factors, health providers are better able to identify problem areas and establish intervention programs and services for high-risk infants. Reductions of adolescent birth rates have been accomplished in recent years with the aide of the adolescent pregnancy prevention programs established by the Tennessee Department of Health. These prevention programs promote community awareness and involvement in teen pregnancy issues, provide abstinence education, and expand services available to pregnant and parenting adolescents.

More detailed county level birth data may be obtained by contacting the Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics or by visiting our website at the address below.

Please visit the Tennessee Department of Health website:  
<http://tennessee.gov/health>

2002 Total Population 5,786,527	2002 White Population 4,726,899	2002 Black Population 970,161
2002 Total Female (10-17) Population 310,396	2002 White Female (10-17) Population 238,374	2002 Black Female (10-17) Population 67,285

**NOTE:** The population estimates for Tennessee used to calculate the rates in this report were based on figures prepared from the 2000 census on August, 2003 by Health Statistics. These revised population figures were based on updated county total estimates, and may result in rates that differ from those previously published.



# Report of Tennessee Births 2002

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF HEALTH  
INFORMATICS  
HEALTH STATISTICS



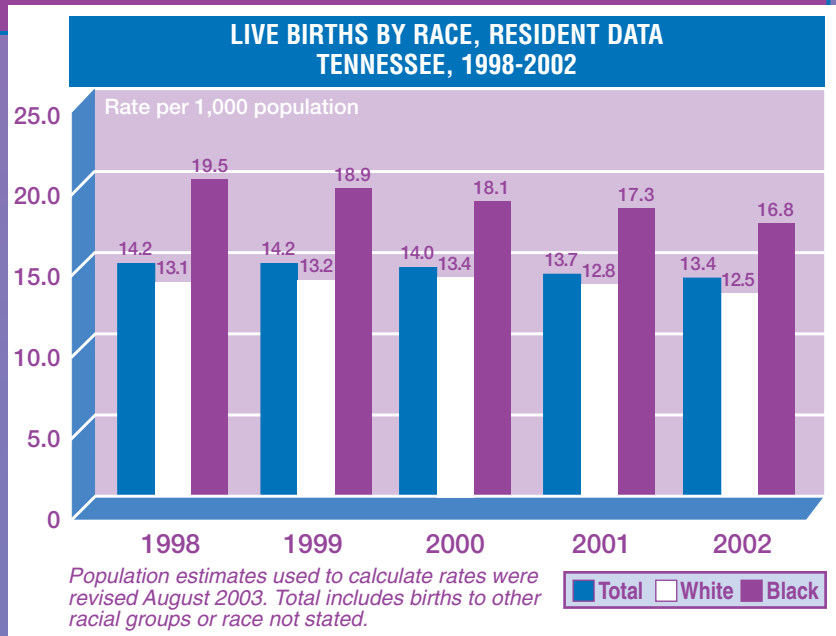
## INTRODUCTION

*Report of Tennessee Births 2002 provides information on final birth data for state residents. Resident data includes events that occurred to residents of the state irrespective of where the events took place. Certificates filed with the Office of Vital Records supplied the data for this report. Copies of certificates occurring to Tennessee residents in other states are forwarded to Tennessee in the interstate transfer of these certificates.*

TENNESSEE'S TOTAL BIRTH TREND INDICATES A GRADUAL DECLINE SINCE THE 1940'S WHEN THE RATES WERE AT RECORD HIGHS. The 2002 total birth rate dropped to a new low of 13.4 per 1,000 population, decreasing 2.2 percent from the rate in 2001. The 2002 white rate (12.5) decreased 2.3 percent from the previous year, while the 2002 black rate of 16.8 was the lowest for five-year period 1998-2002. From 1993 to 2002, Tennessee's total birth and adolescent birth rates decreased. Births rates for unmarried women, low-weight births, and multiple births all increased during the same period.

IN 2002, THERE WERE 77,433 TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS TO TENNESSEE RESIDENTS. Of the total, 59,285 or 76.6 percent were white and 16,261 or 21.0 percent were black. There were 3,408 births to females ages 10-17 combined. This number represented a 6.0 percent decrease from the previous year for this age group. There were 7,392 births to females 35 years and older. Births for this age group increased 1.8 percent over the previous year.

IN 2002, THE PERCENT OF TOTAL BIRTHS WITH ADEQUATE CARE WAS 74.4, AN INCREASE OF 4.2 PERCENT OVER 71.4 IN 1993. In 2002, the percent of births with inadequate care (6.9) increased 35.3 percent over the 1993 percent of 5.1, while the percent of total births with no care increased 7.7 percent from 1.3 to 1.4 for the same period. The percent of births with adequate care increased for both whites and blacks over the ten-year period. Blacks had the highest percentage of births with no care, 3.4 for 2002, an increase of 6.3 percent over 3.2 in 1993.



NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS BY AGE AND RACE OF MOTHER RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 2002			
Age Groups	Total	White	Black
Total . . . . .	77,433	59,285	16,261
10-14 years . . .	183	56	125
15-17 years . . .	3,225	2,023	1,166
18-19 years . . .	7,043	4,952	2,008
20-24 years . . .	23,756	17,277	6,076
25-34 years . . .	35,619	28,799	5,705
35-44 years . . .	7,322	5,933	1,151
45+ years . . . .	70	54	13
Unknown	215	191	17

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF BIRTHS BY ADEQUACY OF PRENATAL CARE AND RACE OF MOTHER RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 2002						
	Total Number	Percent	White Number	Percent	Black Number	Percent
Total . . . . .	77,433	100.0	59,285	100.0	16,261	100.0
Adequate . .	57,619	74.4	46,352	78.2	9,956	61.2
Intermediate . .	13,372	17.3	9,075	15.3	3,904	24.0
Inadequate . . .	5,349	6.9	3,351	5.7	1,852	11.4
No care . . . .	1,093	1.4	507	0.9	549	3.4

Percentages for care are derived from criteria defined in the Kessner Index, which classifies prenatal care on the basis of the number of prenatal visits, gestational age, and the trimester care began. In addition to the specific number of visits indicated for inadequate care, all women who started their care during the third trimester (28 weeks or later) were considered to have received inadequate care.

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF BIRTHS BY WEIGHT AND RACE OF MOTHER RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 2002						
	Total Number	Percent	White Number	Percent	Black Number	Percent
Total . . . . .	77,433	100.0	59,285	100.0	16,261	100.0
Under 2500 grams	7,124	9.2	4,585	7.7	2,375	14.6
1-1499 . . . . .	1,355	1.7	780	1.3	554	3.4
1500-2499 . . .	5,769	7.5	3,805	6.4	1,821	11.2
2500+ grams . .	70,295	90.8	54,692	92.3	13,882	85.4

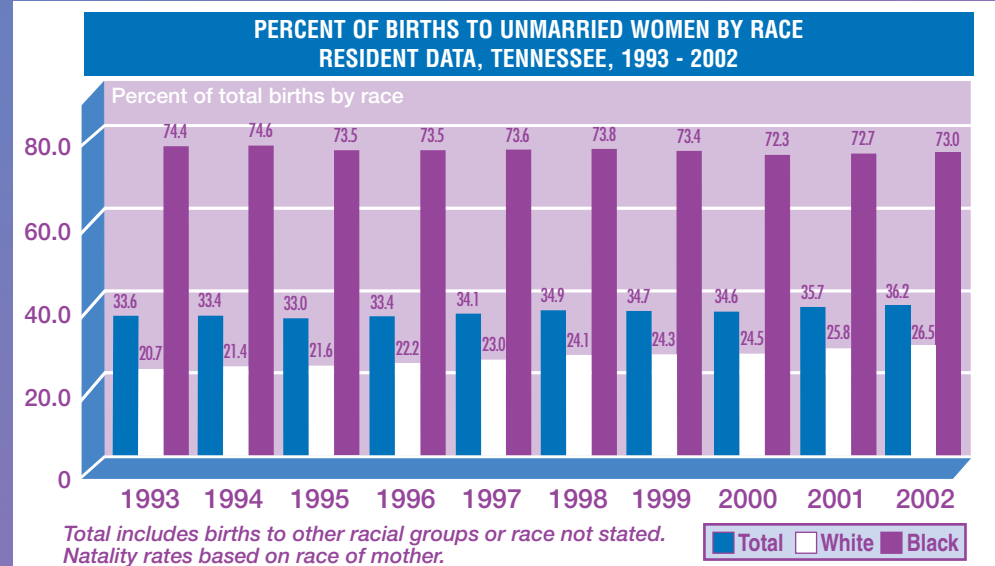
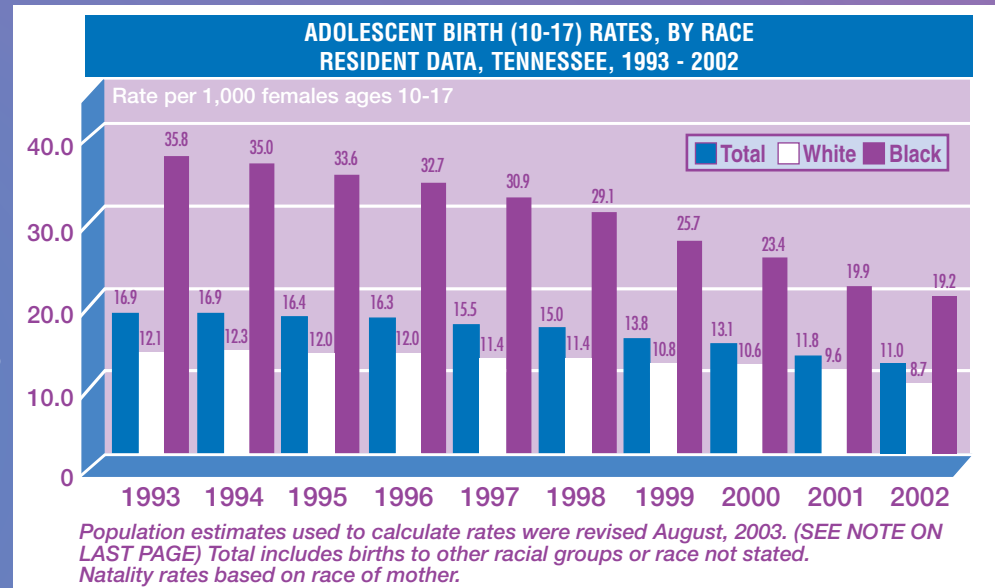
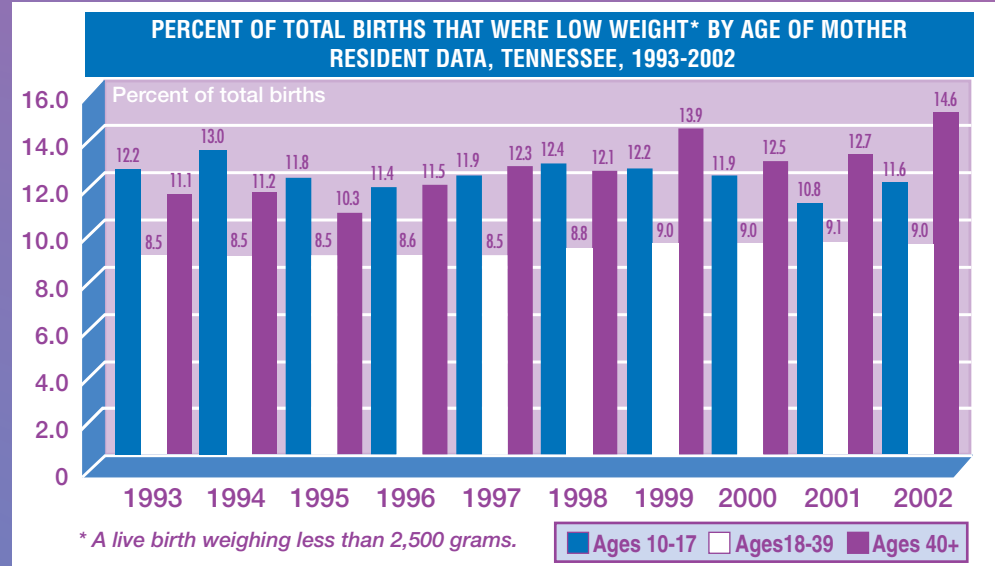
IN 2002, 7,124 LOW BIRTHWEIGHT (LESS THAN 2,500 GRAMS) INFANTS WERE BORN. The low weight percentage of 9.2 occurring in 1999-2002 was the highest for the ten-year period 1993-2002. In 1993, 2.5 percent of total births were multiple births, but this percentage increased to 3.0 by 2002. Of the total multiple births in 2002, 63.9 percent were low weight. This was a 1.3 percent increase over the 63.1 percent low weight multiple births in 1993.

ADOLESCENTS (10-17) AND MOTHERS AGED 40 YEARS AND OLDER FACE A GREATER RISK OF HAVING LOW WEIGHT BABIES (LESS THAN 2,500 GRAMS). In 2002, the low-weight percentage of total births to mothers 10-17 was 11.6. This was 4.9 percent lower than in 1993. The percent of total births that were low birthweight for mothers 40 years and older (14.6) increased 31.5 percent over the same time period.

ADOLESCENT BIRTHS (10-17) BY RACE REVEALED THE HIGHEST RATES PER 1,000 FEMALES WERE FOR BLACKS FOR THE PERIOD 1993-2002. In 2002, the black adolescent birth rate of 19.2 was almost twice as high as the total adolescent birth rate of 11.0. The total birth rate for adolescents declined from 1993 to a ten-year low in 2002. The rates for whites (8.7) and blacks (19.2) also dropped to the lowest rates for the period with the black rate decreasing 46.4 percent from 1993-2002. Teen pregnancy prevention programs are making important contributions in the decline of adolescent birth rates.

NUMBER OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED FEMALES BY AGE WITH PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BIRTHS BY AGE RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 2002						
Age Groups	Total Number	Percent	White Number	Percent	Black Number	Percent
Total . . . . .	28,025	36.2	15,688	26.5	11,866	73.0
10-14 years . . .	182	99.5	56	100.0	124	99.2
15-17 years . . .	2,775	86.0	1,591	78.6	1,157	99.2
18-19 years . . .	5,058	71.8	3,090	62.4	1,914	95.3
20-24 years . . .	11,581	48.7	6,333	36.7	5,070	83.4
25-34 years . . .	7,133	20.0	3,890	13.5	3,057	53.6
35-44 years . .	1,225	16.7	677	11.4	525	45.6
45+ years . . .	12	17.1	7	13.0	5	38.5

THE PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED FEMALES BY AGE SHOWED THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGES WERE FOR FEMALES AGES 10-14 AND 15-17. In 2002, 99.2 percent of the black births to females ages 10-17 combined were to unmarried women, while 79.2 percent were to unmarried white females. The percentages for each race declined as the age of mother increased with the exception of whites aged 45 years and older. The negative effects of births to unmarried adolescents include social and economic consequences resulting from the interruption of schooling. These economic consequences are reflected in costs that are often supported by public assistance programs.



THE PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED WOMEN BY RACE AND YEAR FOR 1993 TO 2002 SHOWED THE PERCENTAGES FOR BLACK WOMEN TWICE THE TOTAL AND THREE TIMES THE PERCENT FOR WHITES. The percent of total births to unmarried women increased 7.7 from 1993 to 2002, while the increase for whites was 28.0 percent. For blacks the percent decreased from 74.4 in 1993 to 73.0 in 2002.